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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) CASE NO. 08CR0306-JLS
11 Plaintiff,)
12 v.) MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
13 MELISA MELENA MAFNAS,) AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF
14 Defendant.) DEFENDANT'S MOTIONS
15 _____) Date: March 14, 2008
Time: 1:30 p.m.
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I.

18 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

19 On January 25, 2008, Melisa Melena Mafnas was stopped at the Interstate 8 Border
20 Patrol Checkpoint and referred to secondary. Two illegal aliens were discovered in the trunk
21 of the Honda Ms. Mafnas was driving. Ms. Mafnas was arrested and charged with alien
22 smuggling in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324.

23 II.

24 **MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND PRESERVE EVIDENCE**

25 Ms. Mafnas moves for the production by the government of the following discovery
26 and for the preservation of evidence. This request is not limited to those items that the
27 prosecutor knows of, but rather includes all discovery listed below that is in the custody,
28 control, care, or knowledge of any government agency. See generally *Kyles v. Whitley*, 514

1 U.S. 419 (1995); *United States v. Bryan*, 868 F.2d 1032 (9th Cir. 1989).

2 (1) The Defendant's Statements. The government must disclose to the defendant
3 all copies of any written or recorded statements made by the defendant; the substance of any
4 statements made by the defendant which the government intends to offer in evidence at trial;
5 any response by the defendant to interrogation; the substance of any oral statements which
6 the government intends to introduce at trial and any written summaries of the defendant's
7 oral statements contained in the handwritten notes of the government agent; any response to
8 any *Miranda* warnings which may have been given to the defendant. Fed.R.Crim.P.
9 16(a)(1)(A). The Advisory Committee Notes and the 1991 amendments to Rule 16 make
10 clear that the government must reveal all the defendant's statements, whether oral or written,
11 regardless of whether the government intends to make any use of those statements.

12 (2) Arrest Reports, Notes and Dispatch Tapes. The defendant also specifically
13 requests the government to turn over all arrest reports, notes, dispatch or any other tapes, and
14 TECS records that relate to the circumstances surrounding his arrest or any questioning. This
15 request includes, but is not limited to, any rough notes, records, reports, transcripts or other
16 documents in which statements of the defendant or any other discoverable material is
17 contained. Such material is discoverable under Fed.R.Crim.P. 16(a)(1)(A) and *Brady v.*
18 *Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). The government must produce arrest reports, investigator's
19 notes, memos from arresting officers, dispatch and other tapes, sworn statements, and
20 prosecution reports pertaining to the defendant and his arrest. See, Fed.R.Crim.P.
21 16(a)(1)(B) and (C), Fed.R.Crim.P. 26.2 and 12(I).

22 (3) Brady Material. The defendant requests all documents, statements, agents'
23 reports, and tangible evidence favorable to the defendant on the issue of guilt and/or which
24 affects the credibility of the government's case. Under *Brady*, impeachment as well as
25 exculpatory evidence falls within the definition of evidence favorable to the accused. *United*
26 *States v. Bagley*, 473 U.S. 667 (1985); *United States v. Agurs*, 427 U.S. 97 (1976).

27 (4) Any Information That May Result in a Lower Sentence Under the Guidelines.
28 The government must produce this information under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 US. 83 (1963).

1 This request includes any cooperation or attempted cooperation by the defendant as well as
2 any information that could affect any base offense level or specific offense characteristic
3 under Chapter Two of the Guidelines. The defendant also requests any information relevant
4 to a Chapter Three adjustment, a determination of the defendant's criminal history, and
5 information relevant to any other application of the Guidelines.

6 (5) The Defendant's Prior Record. The defendant requests disclosure of his prior
7 record. Fed.R.Crim.P. 16(a)(1)(B).

8 (6) Any Proposed 404(b) Evidence. The government must produce evidence of
9 prior similar acts under Fed.R.Crim.P. 16(a)(1)(C) and Fed.R.Evid. 404(b) and 609. In
10 addition, under Fed.R.Evid. 404(b), "upon request of the accused, the prosecution . . . shall
11 provide reasonable notice in advance of trial . . . of the general nature" of any evidence the
12 government proposes to introduce under Fed.R.Evid. 404(b) at trial. The defendant requests
13 such notice sufficiently in advance of trial in order to give the defense time to adequately
14 investigate and prepare for trial.

15 (7) Evidence Seized. The defendant requests production of evidence seized as a
16 result of any search, either warrantless or with a warrant. Fed.R.Crim.P. 16(a)(1)(C).

17 (8) Request for Preservation of Evidence. The defendant specifically requests the
18 preservation of all dispatch tapes or any other physical evidence that may be destroyed, lost,
19 or otherwise put out of the possession, custody, or care of the government and which relate
20 to the arrest or the events leading to the arrest in this case. This request includes, but is not
21 limited to, the results of any fingerprint analysis, the defendant's personal effects, the
22 vehicles, and any evidence seized from the defendant or any third party.

23 (9) Tangible Objects. The defendant requests the opportunity to inspect and copy
24 as well as test, if necessary, all other documents and tangible objects, including photographs,
25 books, papers, documents, fingerprint analyses, vehicles, or copies of portions thereof, which
26 are material to the defense or intended for use in the government's case-in-chief or were
27 obtained from or belong to the defendant. Fed.R.Crim.P. 16(a)(1)(C).

28 (10) Expert Witnesses. The defendant requests the name, qualifications, and a written

1 summary of the testimony of any person that the government intends to call as an expert
2 witness during its case in chief. (Fed.R.Crim.P. 16(a)(1)(E).

3 (11) Evidence of Bias or Motive to Lie. The defendant requests any evidence that
4 any prospective government witness is biased or prejudiced against the defendant, or has a
5 motive to falsify or distort his or her testimony.

6 (12) Impeachment Evidence. The defendant requests any evidence that any
7 prospective government witness has engaged in any criminal act whether or not resulting in
8 a conviction and whether any witness has made a statement favorable to the defendant. See,
9 Fed.R.Evid. 608, 609 and 613; *Brady v. Maryland*. In addition, Ms. Mafnas requests that the
10 Assistant United States Attorney assigned to this case oversee a review of all personnel files
11 of each agent involved in the present case for impeachment material. *Kyles v. Whitley*, 115
12 S.Ct. 1555 (1995); *United States v. Henthorn*, 931 F.2d 29 (9th Cir. 1991); but see, *United*
13 *States v. Herring*, 83 F.3d 1120 (9th Cir. 1996).

14 (13) Evidence of Criminal Investigation of Any Government Witness. The
15 defendant requests any evidence that any prospective witness is under investigation by
16 federal, state or local authorities for any criminal conduct.

17 (14) Evidence Affecting Perception, Recollection, Ability to Communicate, or Truth
18 Telling. The defense requests any evidence, including any medical or psychiatric report or
19 evaluation, that tends to show that any prospective witness' ability to perceive, remember,
20 communicate, or tell the truth is impaired, and any evidence that a witness has ever used
21 narcotics or other controlled substance, or has ever been an alcoholic.

22 (15) Witness Addresses. The defendant requests the name and last known address
23 of each prospective government witness. The defendant also requests the name and last
24 known address of every witness to the crime or crimes charged (or any of the overt acts
25 committed in furtherance thereof) who will not be called as a government witness.

26 (16) Name of Witnesses Favorable to the Defendant. The defendant requests the
27 name of any witness who made an arguably favorable statement concerning the defendant
28 or who could not identify her or who was unsure of her identity, or participation in the crime

1 charged.

2 (17) Statements Relevant to the Defense. The defendant requests disclosure of any
3 statement relevant to any possible defense or contention that he might assert.

4 (18) Jencks Act Material. The defendant requests production in advance of trial of all
5 material, including dispatch tapes, which the government must produce pursuant to the
6 Jencks Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3500. Advance production will avoid the possibility of delay at the
7 request of defendant to investigate the Jencks material. A verbal acknowledgment that
8 “rough” notes constitute an accurate account of the witness’ interview is sufficient for the
9 report or notes to qualify as a statement under section 3500(e)(1). *Campbell v. United States*,
10 373 U.S. 487, 490-92 (1963). In *United States v. Boshell*, 952 F.2d 1101 (9th Cir. 1991), the
11 Ninth Circuit held that when an agent goes over interview notes with the subject of the
12 interview the notes are then subject to the Jencks Act.

13 (19) Giglio Information. Pursuant to *Giglio v. United States*, 3405 U.S. 150 (1972),
14 the defendant requests all statements and/or promises, express or implied, made to any
15 government witnesses, in exchange for their testimony in this case, and all other information
16 which could arguably be used for the impeachment of any government witnesses.

17 (20) Agreements Between the Government and Witnesses. The defendant requests
18 discovery regarding any express or implicit promise, understanding, offer of immunity, of
19 past, present, or future compensation, or any other kind of agreement or understanding,
20 including any implicit understanding relating to criminal or civil income tax, forfeiture or
21 fine liability, between any prospective government witness and the government (federal, state
22 and/or local). This request also includes any discussion with a potential witness about or
23 advice concerning any contemplated prosecution, or any possible plea bargain, even if no
24 bargain was made, or the advice not followed.

25 (21) Informants and Cooperating Witnesses. The defendant requests disclosure of
26 the names and addresses of all informants or cooperating witnesses used or to be used in this
27 case, and in particular, disclosure of any informant who was a percipient witness in this case
28 or otherwise participated in the crime charged against Ms. Mafnas. The government must

1 disclose the informant's identity and location, as well as disclose the existence of any other
 2 percipient witness unknown or unknowable to the defense. *Roviaro v. United States*, 353
 3 U.S. 52, 61-62 (1957). The government must disclose any information derived from
 4 informants which exculpates or tends to exculpate the defendant.

5 (22) Bias by Informants or Cooperating Witnesses. The defendant requests
 6 disclosure of any information indicating bias on the part of any informant or cooperating
 7 witness. *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972). Such information would include
 8 what, if any, inducements, favors, payments or threats were made to the witness to secure
 9 cooperation with the authorities.

10 (23) Residual Requests. Ms. Mafnas intends by this discovery motion to invoke her
 11 rights to discovery to the fullest extent possible under the Federal Rules of Criminal
 12 Procedure and the Constitution and laws of the United States. Ms. Mafnas requests that the
 13 government provide her and her attorney with the above requested material sufficiently in
 14 advance of trial to avoid unnecessary delay prior to cross-examination.

15 III.

16 **ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY MS. MAFNAS SHOULD BE SUPPRESSED**

17 A. Introduction.

18 According to discovery currently provided, after Ms. Mafnas was detained, she was
 19 questioned by agents and made statements. In his report, however, Officer Jose Haro states
 20 after advising Ms. Mafnas of her *Miranda* rights she "chose to invoke her rights."

21 B. Miranda Warnings Must Precede Custodial Interrogation.

22 The Supreme Court has held that the prosecution may not use statements, whether
 23 exculpatory or inculpatory, stemming from a custodial interrogation of the defendant unless
 24 it demonstrates the use of procedural safeguards effective to secure the privilege against self-
 25 incrimination. See *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436, 444 (1966). The law imposes no
 26 substantive duty upon the defendant to make any showing other than that the statement was
 27 taken from the defendant during custodial interrogation. *Id.*, at 476. Custodial interrogation
 28 is questioning initiated by law enforcement officers after a person has been taken into

1 custody or otherwise deprived of his freedom of action in any significant way. *Id.*, at 477;
 2 see *Orozco v. Texas*, 394 U.S. 324, 327 (1969). In *Stansbury v. California*, the Supreme
 3 Court clarified its prior decisions by stating that “the initial determination of custody depends
 4 on the objective circumstances of the interrogation, not on the subjective views harbored by
 5 either the interrogating officers or the person being questioned.” 511 U.S. 318, 323 (1994).
 6 The Ninth Circuit has held that a suspect will be found to be in custody if the actions of the
 7 interrogating officers and the surrounding circumstances, fairly construed, would reasonably
 8 have led him to believe he could not freely leave. See *United States v. Lee*, 699 F.2d 466,
 9 468 (9th Cir. 1982); *United States v. Bekowies*, 432 F.2d 8, 12 (9th Cir. 1970). In
 10 determining whether a person is in custody, a reviewing court must consider the language
 11 used to summon the defendant, the physical surroundings of the interrogation, and the extent
 12 to which the defendant is confronted with evidence of his guilt. See *United States v. Estrada-Lucas*, 651 F.2d 1261 (9th Cir. 1980).

14 Once a person is in custody, *Miranda* warnings must be given prior to any
 15 interrogation. In *United States v. Leisure*, the Ninth Circuit held that “custody,” for the
 16 purposes of *Miranda* warnings, usually begin at the point of secondary inspection in border
 17 cases. 122 F.3d 837, 840 (1997). *Miranda* warnings must advise the defendant of each of
 18 his or her “critical” rights. See *United States v. Bland*, 908 F.2d 471, 473 (9th Cir. 1990).
 19 Furthermore, if a defendant indicates that he wishes to remain silent or requests counsel, the
 20 interrogation must cease. See *Miranda*, 384 U.S. at 474; see also *Edwards v. Arizona*, 451
 21 U.S. 477 (1981).

22 Because Ms. Mafnas invoked her *Miranda* rights, all statements must be suppressed.
 23

IV.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO FILE FURTHER MOTIONS

25 To date, Ms. Mafnas and defense counsel have received some discovery from the
 26 government. Counsel requests leave to file further motions based upon information gained
 27 through the discovery process.

28 / / /

1 V.

2 **CONCLUSION**

3 For the foregoing reasons, the defendant respectfully request that the Court grant the
4 motions made by the defendant.

5 Respectfully submitted,

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7 Dated: March 11, 2008

/s/ Robert E. Boyce
8 ROBERT E. BOYCE
9 Attorney for Defendant
10 MELISA MELENA MAFNAS

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